

Spring 1-15-2010

ENG 3703-001: American Literature 1900-1950

Marjorie Worthington
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2010



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Worthington, Marjorie, "ENG 3703-001: American Literature 1900-1950" (2010). *Spring 2010*. 105.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2010/105

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2010 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2010 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

ENGLISH 3703.001 – AMERICAN LITERATURE, 1900-1950

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington
 Office: Coleman Hall 3321
 Phone: 581-5214
 Email: mgworthington@eiu.edu
 Class: Coleman Hall 3160, TR, 11:00-12:15pm
 Office Hours: TR 2:00-5:00pm, or by appt.

Texts: *Heath Anthology, Vol. II*, 3rd Edition
 Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives*
 F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
 William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*
 Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes were Watching God*

OBJECTIVES:

- To read, discuss and analyze representative texts of the early twentieth century.
- To familiarize ourselves with differing critical stances on some of these works.
- To learn about and engage in literary research.
- To hone skills related to writing literary analyses.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Short Essays: Over the course of the semester, you will write five one-page *single-spaced* essays. They should cover the reading assigned for the particular day on which they are due. Although short, these essays should be focused and **thesis-driven**. It is my hope that these papers will: 1) help you keep up with the reading; and 2) generate interesting ideas for discussion. For that reason, you **must be in class** and **must contribute to class discussion that day** (in other words, speak up) in order to get credit for the response. **YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL SHORT ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THIS COURSE.**

Short Essay Groups (by last name):

[Group A: A-D]; [Group B: E-K]; [Group C: L-N]; [Group D: O-Si]; [Group E: Sj-Z]

Critical Analysis: Critical articles about the texts we are reading can provide new and different insights into the works. Consult the appropriate databases and find three articles about one of the novel-length texts on the syllabus. Write a 5-6-page summary and analysis of those articles. Address the following questions: What is each article's main argument concerning the novel? Is that argument valid? What salient points do these novels fail to address? Which article makes the strongest point? Be sure to make copies of these articles (or print them from the database) to turn in with your final essay. **NOTE:** By "critical articles" I mean articles found in academic journals or books, NOT encyclopedias, Cliffs or Sparks notes, or web sources like Wikipedia. Please do not hesitate to see me if you are having trouble finding articles; we can work with the databases together.

Analytical Essay: For this assignment, choose a text or author other than the one you choose for your critical analysis and write an essay about it. You can expand upon the ideas in one of your short essays, turning it into a long essay by adding discussion and further evidence from the text. The most difficult part of this assignment will be determining a suitable topic and thesis for this essay. I am purposely not providing topic ideas: you will explore possible ideas yourself, choose one and flesh it out in an essay. Your paper should have a clear and focused thesis statement and should make some kind of compelling **argument**. You will be graded on the quality of this argument and the extent to which you support this argument with evidence from the text. You should use outside articles to aid you now that you know how

to find them and integrate them into your own writing. Using outside sources presents another challenge: finding outside support for your thesis without simply repeating those of the articles.

Final Exam: The final exam will test both basic knowledge of the texts and class discussion, and your ability to understand and analyze what you have read. It will include essays and some short answer and possibly, a take-home aspect.

POLICIES:

Attendance: Your consistent attendance and participation are necessary to make this class the vibrant exchange of ideas it should be and I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your **final** grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation.

Conferences: The hours listed above are times when I will be in my office ready to meet with students. You can also make a special appointment to see me if you are unable to come during office hours. I encourage you to come and talk to me about your work as often as you like.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Disabilities: If you have a documented disability, let me know what accommodations you require.

Grade Breakdown:

Short Responses	25%
Critical Essay	25%
Analytical/Research Essay	25%
Final Exam	25%

ENG 3703 READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Jan.	12 T	Introduction
	14 Th	Henry James, pp. 449-452, 498-511, <i>The Beast in the Jungle</i>
	19 T	pp. 511-end, <i>The Beast in the Jungle</i> ,
A	21 Th	Kate Chopin, pp. 527-533
B	26 T	Booker T. Washington 916-931, 935-943, DuBois 943-959
C	28 Th	Edith Wharton, 1012-1014, 1058-1079
D Feb.	2 T	Gertrude Stein, <i>Three Lives</i>
E	4 Th	Gertrude Stein, <i>Three Lives</i>
A	9 T	Pound 1215-1221, Lowell 1241-1251
B	11 Th	Eliot 1397-1403, Tennessee Williams

- C 16 T Jean Toomer, Susan Glaspell
D 18 Th Wm. Carlos Williams 1267-1277, H.D. 1340-1349
- E 23 T Ernest Hemingway, Edna St. Vincent Millay
A 25 Th Langston Hughes 1611-1621, Countee Cullen
- B Mar. 2 T Willa Cather
C 4 Th Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*, pp. 5-42
- D 9 T *The Great Gatsby*, pp. 43-143
E 11 Th *The Great Gatsby*, pp. 143-end

SPRING BREAK

- A 23 T *The Sound and the Fury*, April Seventh, 1928 **Critical Analysis Due**
A 25 Th *The Sound and the Fury*, June Second, 1910
- B 30 T *The Sound and the Fury*, April Sixth, 1928
C Apr. 1 Th *The Sound and the Fury*, April Eighth, 1928
- D 6 T Marianne Moore, Sherwood Anderson
E 8 Th E.E. Cummings, Robert Frost
- A 13 T Wallace Stevens, Richard Wright 1933-1959
B 15 Th John Steinbeck 1916-1925, Chinese Immigrant Poetry 2001-2009
- C 20 T *Eyes Watching God Chaps. 1-8* **Analytical Essay due**
C 22 Th *Eyes Watching God Chaps. 9-14*
- D 27 T *Eyes Watching God Chaps. 15-end*
E 29 Th Exam Review

May 4 Tuesday, 2:45-4:45 **FINAL EXAM**